GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2162
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Illegal Stay of Pilgrims
Misra Shri Pinaki

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lots of pilgrims come to India every year from the neighbouring countries;
(b) if so, whether some of those pilgrims intentionally get lost and do not return to their country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the spies of foreign countries take advantage of such situation and infiltrate for malicious activities causing threat to the national security; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken to ensure that such activities of infiltration are completely checked and controlled?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) & (b): Pilgrim visa is granted to Pakistani nationals to visit religious shrines in India. It has been reported that some Pakistani nationals belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, mainly Hindus and Sikhs, who came to India on Group Pilgrim Visa have not returned to Pakistan on the ground of religious persecution in Pakistan.
(c) : There are no specific inputs in this regard.
(d) : Does not arise. However, the Central Government has issued detailed instructions on 28th July, 2015 laying down stringent conditions for grant of
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Group Pilgrim Visa to minority communities in Pakistan to visit religious places in India. According to these instructions, there will be a restriction on the number in each group to a maximum of 50, with a group leader for every group. Further, the group leader will be responsible for police reporting for the entire group and also to ensure that the members of the group enter India together, travel within India together and exit India together.

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